GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3336
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Reservation for Women in Parliament
Kumar Shri Ashwini;Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether action is being taken to formulate law for providing reservation to women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard;
(b) whether serious social and economic imbalance has developed due to lack of women empowerment; and
(c) the status of the efforts being made by the Government to provide legal assistance for upgrading the social, economic and political status of women in the country?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): During the years, a consistent demand has been made from various quarters for giving adequate representation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures and to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies including the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. A Bill, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Eight Amendment) Bill, 2008 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 6th May, 2008. The Rajya Sabha passed the said Bill on 9th March, 2010; but it could not be passed by the fifteenth Lok Sabha. The said Bill lapsed on dissolution of the fifteenth Lok Sabha.

It has been the endeavor of the Government to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

(c): Free Legal Services are provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to the weaker sections of society including women. Free Legal Services include payment of court fees, providing advocates and preparation of paper books etc. The panel lawyers for legal aid cases are appointed at all levels including in the High Courts and Supreme Court. NALSA has also formulated various schemes for women and other weaker sections to ensure that opportunities to secure justice are not denied to them.
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